



California's Children and Youths'
System of Care: An Agenda to Transform
Promises Into Practice

Young Minds Advocacy
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Download the report:
<https://www.ymadvocacy.org/promises-into-practice-report/>



YOUNG MINDS
ADVOCACY

Turning Promises Into Practice

The Four Elements of System Reform





Full & Equal
Access

Why is this Important?

- 1. *It's Humane:*** We want to provide care to children and families in need.
- 2. *It's Fair:*** everyone should get individually appropriate care
- 3. *Avoid Harm:*** Unmet mental health needs cause failure in every child-serving systems
- 4. *Achieve Potential:*** Every Child deserves the opportunity to become an independent adult who fully participates in society
- 5. *We Promised***
- 6. *It's the Law***



Coordinated
Services &
Resources

Why is this Important?

- 1. *Shared Responsibility*:** Children are clients of many systems or agencies
- 2. *Better Outcomes*:** Uncoordinated activities create service duplication and gaps, wastes resources and results in poor outcomes
- 3. *A System of Care is Required*** to effectively serve children and youth with complex needs
- 4. *Children Come First*:** systems must be designed to meet youth and families' needs, not than needs of agencies created to serve them



Effective,
High-Quality
Care

Why is this Important?

- 1. *To Avoid Harm:*** Ineffective services can be harmful
- 2. *Improved Outcomes:*** require effective treatment and interventions
- 3. *Promote Efficiency:*** Ineffective care wastes scarce resources and alienates clients and providers
- 4. *Because We Can:*** children and youth deserve high quality care
- 5. It's a professional *Ethical Obligation***



Leadership,
Engagement &
Accountability

Why is this Important?

1. Change Requires Effective

Leadership: Our existing approach doesn't address the needs, hopes, and goals of youth and families

2. Inadequate Oversight over billions in spending means little accountability for client satisfaction or outcomes

3. Proactive Collaboration is Essential to managing a multi-agency service system: it cannot run on autopilot

4. Stakeholder Engagement improves public support and accountability



Full & Equal
Access

What Should Be Done?

- *Fulfill Our Promises*
- **Identify Needs**
- *Allocate Funds Equitably to Ensure Equal Access to Care*
- **Close Gaps in Coverage**



Coordinated
Services &
Resources

What Should Be Done?

- ✓ **One Child, One Plan**
- ✓ *Funds and Resources Must Follow the Child*
- ✓ **Use a Shared Wraparound Practice Model for All Multi-System Involved Youth**
- ✓ *Develop a Collaborative, Culturally Competent, Workforce That Practices Cross-System Teaming*



Effective,
High-Quality
Care

What Should Be Done?

- **Close the Science-Practice Gap**
- *Measure, Assess, Report, Improve. Repeat!*
- **State Funding for Core Functionality of the Performance and Quality Improvement System**
- *Quality Improvement Must Become Embedded in Routine Practice and Decision-Making*



Leadership,
Engagement &
Accountability

What Should Be Done?

- ✓ *Build a Sustainable Stakeholder Coalition*
- ✓ *State and County Alignment & Leadership Is Needed to Support a Truly Collaborative System of Care*
- ✓ *Leaders and Managers Must Set Clear, Accountable, Data-Driven, Short and Long Term Goals*
- ✓ *Broaden the Focus and Reach of Children and Youths' Mental Health Policy*



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